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Claims
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Timothy E. Dickson
Serial No. 09/494,897
Filed: 01/31/2000
For: **FRAUD DETECTION THROUGH FLOW RATE ANALYSIS**

Examiner: Von Buhr, M. N.
Art Unit: 2125

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 26, 2002

In response to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2002, Applicant offers the following amendments and remarks. If any fees are required in association with this response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 50-1732, and consider this a petition therefor.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In a first aspect of this second embodiment, the fuel dispenser 10, and particularly the meter 56, reports to the control system 50 a measured flow rate of the fuel presently being dispensed (block 120). Control system 50 compares the reported flow rate to a historical flow rate established by the fuel dispenser 10 (block 122) or a flow rate calculated from the amount of fuel reported as dispensed on display 12. If the flow rate fails to meet some criterion or criteria (block 124) then an alarm may be generated (block 126). Note that for a given fuel dispenser 10, the average flow rate should remain relatively constant from transaction to transaction, thus the historical data would have to be established before any tampering to be effective. This could be done during factory calibration or immediately after installation to reduce the risk of the historical data being fraudulent from the outset. However, if the historical data is accurate, any change or deviation therefrom may be indicative of tampering.--.

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In the Claims:

Please add new claim 47 as follows:

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